

MDC 200 Critical Area Treatment

- Purpose: Establishment of perennial herbaceous or woody vegetation to stabilize highly erodible or critically eroding areas.
- Applicability: Areas that cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment, and if left untreated will contribute to severe erosion or sediment damage. Examples include dams, levees, waterways, spillways, logging haul roads and decking areas, trails, firebreaks and other severely eroded or gullied areas.
- Eligibility: Determined by the MDC planner based on Regional priorities.
- Policies:
1. Cost share is authorized at **75% of the actual cost** – not to exceed the practice payment limit of \$5,000.00. At the 75% rate, total landowner payment shall not exceed \$3,750.00/project/ landowner/year.
Within designated quail and grassland bird focus areas and grassland coalition focus areas, cost share is authorized at **90% of the actual cost** – not to exceed the practice payment limit of \$6,000.00 and total landowner payment shall not exceed \$5,400.00/project/ landowner/year.
 2. Approved components include grading and shaping required to allow successful establishment of perennial vegetative cover, seeding, and lime and fertilizer application. Partial levees may be constructed to deflect degraded runoff from sinkholes, springs, fens and other sensitive features.
 3. Specifications for this practice shall follow NRCS standards.
 4. Vegetation established must be appropriate to the soil type as determined by NRCS specifications, and is limited to wildlife-friendly species specified by the MDC planner. Grazing livestock must be excluded from the area by a permanent fence that meets NRCS specifications.
 5. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years after establishment.
 6. MDC planners should insure the practice does not qualify for cost share under the DNR-SWCP practice DSL-11.

Refer to the following for practice standards and specifications:

- [NRCS 484](#) (Mulching)
- MDC Forestry BMPs (request a copy from your Regional Forester)
- NRCS Transmittal 306 (soil/vegetation suitability table)
- MDC Exotic plant policy